

New City Catechism

Question 17: What is idolatry?

Answer: Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator.

Romans 1:21, 25

- When you hear the name of the popular TV show “American Idol,” what do you think the creators of that show mean by the term *idol*?
- What does the word idol mean? (*Definition—a symbol or representation of a god or deity that is worshipped; a person or thing adored*)
- Remember the 2nd commandment? What does it say?
- In Biblical times, what did it mean that people worshipped idols?

Read Exodus 20:22-23. What was the Lord trying to guard against? (*The words “to be with me” are important—God wanted his people to be with him and prevent anything coming between himself and his people for their sakes*).

Read Exodus 32:1-4. What were the people worshipping here? (*Explain: Moses had been on the mountain for 40 days meeting with God and receiving the commandments that were to govern how God’s people were to live and obey God. Although God had led them out of Egypt and saved them from bondage and death, the people grew turned away from him very quickly. It didn’t even take 40 days!*)

Read Romans 1:21 and 25. What does Paul say about idol worship?

We don’t see much golden calf worship in our culture today, but idol worship goes on nonetheless and the consequences are just as serious! The long answer for our Catechism Q&A is: “Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.”

New City Catechism

Question 17: What is idolatry?

Answer: Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator.

Romans 1:21, 25

- When you hear the name of the popular TV show “American Idol,” what do you think the creators of that show mean by the term *idol*?
- What does the word idol mean? (*Definition—a symbol or representation of a god or deity that is worshipped; a person or thing adored*)
- Remember the 2nd commandment? What does it say?
- In Biblical times, what did it mean that people worshipped idols?

Read Exodus 20:22-23. What was the Lord trying to guard against? (*The words “to be with me” are important—God wanted his people to be with him and prevent anything coming between himself and his people for their sakes*).

Read Exodus 32:1-4. What were the people worshipping here? (*Explain: Moses had been on the mountain for 40 days meeting with God and receiving the commandments that were to govern how God’s people were to live and obey God. Although God had led them out of Egypt and saved them from bondage and death, the people grew turned away from him very quickly. It didn’t even take 40 days!*)

Read Romans 1:21 and 25. What does Paul say about idol worship?

We don’t see much golden calf worship in our culture today, but idol worship goes on nonetheless and the consequences are just as serious! The long answer for our Catechism Q&A is: “Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.”

- So what do people today put their trust in for hope? For happiness? For significance? For security? What about your peers?
- What do you trust in for these things? How do you know?
- Think about the things you spend most of your time thinking about, worrying about, or trying to protect—could any of these come close to being idols?

If you are looking to anything else but Our Creator for hope, happiness, significance and security, IT IS IDOLATRY!

Spend some time either as a family, confessing and repenting of your own idolatry. Ask God to make you aware of areas in your life where you put other things or people above your relationship with Him.

Please make use of the New City Catechism app or website Commentary, Video, Prayer, and Song as you see fit.

- So what do people today put their trust in for hope? For happiness? For significance? For security? What about your peers?
- What do you trust in for these things? How do you know?
- Think about the things you spend most of your time thinking about, worrying about, or trying to protect—could any of these come close to being idols?

If you are looking to anything else but Our Creator for hope, happiness, significance and security, IT IS IDOLATRY!

Spend some time either as a family, confessing and repenting of your own idolatry. Ask God to make you aware of areas in your life where you put other things or people above your relationship with Him.

Please make use of the New City Catechism app or website Commentary, Video, Prayer, and Song as you see fit.